



*Normal*



NORMAL  

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+ OR +

The State Normal

and

Industrial School,

 NORMAL, ALABAMA.







**President W. H. COUNCIL.**

## PRESIDENT W H. COUNCILL.

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W H. COUNCILL was born in Fayetteville, N C., in 1848, and brought to Alabama by the traders 1857, through the famous Richmond Slave Pen. He is a self-made man, having had only few school advantages. He attended one of the first schools opened by kind Northern friends at Stevenson, Alabama, in 1865. Here he remained about three years, and this is the basis of his education. He has been a close and earnest student ever since, often spending much of the night in study. He has accumulated quite an excellent library and the best books of the best masters are his constant companions, as well as a large supply of the best current literature. By private instruction and almost incessant study, he gained a fair knowledge of some of the languages, higher mathematics and the sciences. He read law and was admitted to the Supreme Court of Alabama in 1883. But he has never left the profession of teaching for a day, although flattering political positions have been held out to him. He has occupied high positions in church and other religions, temperance and charitable organizations, and has no mean standing as a public speaker. And thus by earnest toil, self-denial, hard study, he has made himself, built up one of the largest institutions in the South and educated scores of young people *at his own expense*.

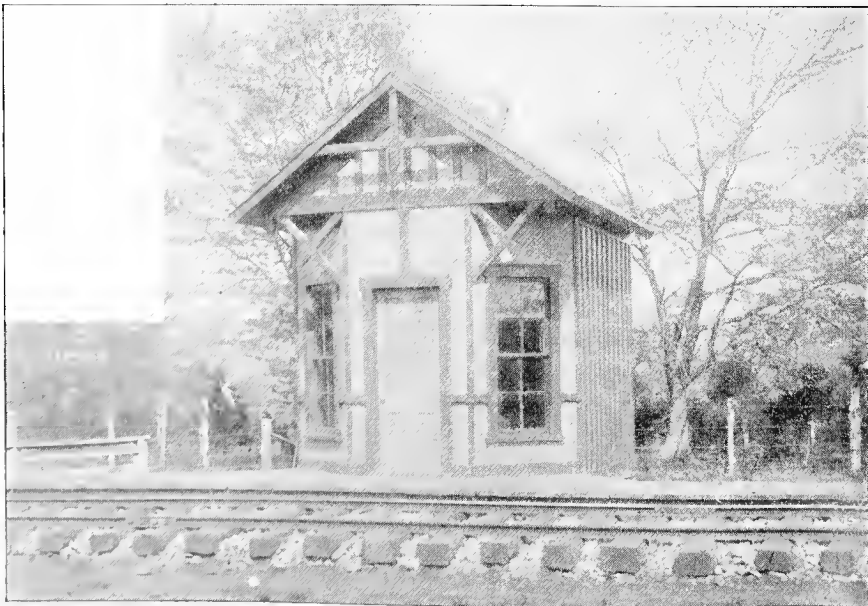


## NORMAL.

While the State Normal and Industrial School, at Normal, Alabama, has made little display through the public prints, it is a fact that it is doing a great work for Negro Education, and stands among the best schools of the land.

This institution, like many others in the South, is the work of sacrifice and charity. The early teachers taught for a bare living in order to make the school a fixture. Prof. Council, the founder and President of the school, gave his entire earnings for more than ten years to the work. The documents which the teachers signed, donating their salaries to the cause of education of the negro race, is a part of the records of the institution, and a witness of their devotion and consecration to the work.

The school began its existence in the city of Huntsville, Alabama, May 1, 1875. It was first taught in a



Normal Station—Elora Branch of N. C. & St. L. R. R.

little church, and then in rented houses about the city until September 1, 1882, a beautiful lot consisting of five acres of land on which stood several buildings, was purchased and the school permanently located.

Beginning May 1, 1875, with not one dollar in property, only one teacher, nineteen pupils, annual income of \$1000. In 1878, its work was so satisfactory that the annual appropriation was increased to \$2,000, and it then had four teachers and over two hundred pupils. The Peabody and Slater funds made liberal contributions to its support. In 1884, the Alabama Legislature increased the



Only School attended by President Councill,  
Stevenson, Ala., 1865-8.

annual appropriation to \$4,000, the city of Huntsville gave aid, and warm friends, North and South, contributed liberally. The old buildings on the grounds were improved, and by 1890, two large handsome brick buildings, one large frame dormitory for young men, and a commodious Industrial building had been erected and fitted up; the faculty had been increased to eleven teachers, and more than three hundred students were receiving instruction in a thorough Normal Course and in important industries. The institution had grown to be a great power in shaping the destinies of the negro race—indeed, the nation.

Thus in 1890, fifteen years after the founding of the school, it was located on its own grounds, with five beautiful buildings, eleven teachers, \$6,000 annual income, warm friends at its back, hundreds of students pursuing well selected literary and industrial courses—property and equipment valued at \$25,000.

The Legislature of Alabama in further recognition of the merits of this institution selected it as the recipient of



Old Slave Cabin. President's Office, 1891-4.

that portion of the Congressional grant under Act approved August 30, 1890, known as the Morrill Fund "for the more complete endowment and maintenance of colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic arts," given to Alabama for Negro Education. This action of the Legislature gave new force and broader scope to the

work. It was seen that larger quarters were necessary, that the beautiful grounds, handsome buildings supplied with gas and water must be given up and the

#### SCHOOL MOVED FROM HUNTSVILLE

to some suitable place near by. A great many locations were offered, and, after due consideration, the present location was purchased. Palmer Hall and Seay Hall, a barn and a dairy were erected and the session opened for 1891-2, September 1, in its new quarters—three months after the closing of the session June 1, 1891. The new location was commonly known as

#### GREEN BOTTOM INN,

or Connally Race Track. It has an interesting history, as old almost as the State itself. There once stood upon these grounds a famous Inn, a large distillery, grog-shop, slave cabins, rows of stables in which were kept the great trotting horses of fifty years ago, while in the beautiful valley, circling at the foot of the hill, was the race-course where thousands of dollars were lost and won. Stretching far away to the south, west and north of the hill (now Normal) are broad fields wherein worked hundreds of Africa's dusky sons, filling the air with merry songs accompanying plow or hoe, or with silent prayers to Heaven for deliverance from bondage. Here men as well as horses were bought and sold, and often blood was drawn from human veins by the lash like the red wine from bright decanters. But what a change! The famous old Inn is no more. The distillery has crumbled to dust. Not a vestige of those stables remain. The old grog-shop, too, has gone forever. However,

“There are still some few remaining  
Who remind us of the past.”

The beautiful mountains and the same broad fields,

made more beautiful by Freedom's touch, still stretch far, far away : the race-course is gone, but a little higher up the hill-side is a road along which thousands of slaves have passed from the Carolinas and Virginia to the bottoms of the Mississippi, and the road now is a main street of Normal ; four of the old slave cabins remain, one of which for three years served as the President's office and three repaired and occupied by teachers and their families ; the great old gin-house, built of logs, where so many slaves trembled at the reckoning evening hour, now used as Normal's blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, broom factory, mattress factory ; the old log barn, repaired, and with addition, serving as Normal's laundry ; the little saddle house whose frame-work is put together entirely with pegs instead of nails, now serves as barber shop ; the carriage house, which has served as sewing room and printing office ; and last the grand old residence of the " lord



President's Office, 1865.





of the manor," partly of stone, ( walls three feet thick ) and partly of wood covered with cedar shingles, under a heavy coating of moss, containing in all eight rooms. In this typical, hospitable Southern home, the great Andrew Jackson, once President of the United States, was entertained when he attended the races and bet his eagles on the trotters. This home is now the residence of the President of Normal who was himself a slave. The mutations of time !

INCOME.

The income at present is derived :

State of Alabama.	\$ 4,000
U S. Government ("Morrill Fund").	9,000
Other Sources.	20,000
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	\$33,000

This is steadily increasing every year.

STUDENTS.

The attendance for 1894-5 is over 400, representing 18 States, and nearly every county in Alabama. The applications for admission have always been twice as great as the accommodations. As the means for accommodation increase, the attendance will grow.

The department enrollment for 1894-5 is as follows :

	MALES	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Mechanic Arts	112	0	112
Agriculture	35	1	36
English Language	199	208	407
Mathematical Science.	199	208	407
Physical Science	79	99	178
Natural Science	124	149	273
Economic Science	15	127	142
Business Course	16	9	25
Vocal Music	199	208	407
Instrumental Music	1	49	50



## NORMAL

## GRADUATES, 1894-1895.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Normal Course	9	13	22
Blacksmithing	1	0	1
Carpentry	2	0	2
Broom-Making	1	0	1
Agriculture.	1	0	1
Printing	1	0	1
Nursing	0	6	6
Laundry	0	7	7
Sewing	0	3	3
Cooking	0	7	7
Business Course	1	3	4
Instrumental Music	0	1	1
	<u>16</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>56</u>

## PROFESSORS AND TUTORS, 1894-5.

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
Mechanic Arts	5	0	5
Agriculture	1	0	1
English Language	5	3	8
Mathematical Science	1	3	4
Physical Science	1	0	1
Natural Science	1	0	1
Economic Science	0	4	4
Business Course	1	0	1
Other Branches	3	2	5
	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>

## WHOLE NUMBER OF GRADUATES.

Since organization the Institution has sent forth from its various departments graduates as follows:

Normal Department	166
Blacksmithing.	4
Carpentry	4
Agriculture	3
Printing	2
Nursing	8
Laundering	9
Cutting and Sewing	7
Cooking and General Housekeeping	11
Business Course	4
Total	<u>218</u>

Besides these graduates, there are hundreds of undergraduates doing great work among thousands of the Negro population of the country. The graduating classes in all departments increase annually.

FEELING TOWARD THE INSTITUTION.

There is no other community in this whole country which gives to a school, black or white, warmer encouragement than Normal gets from the white people of this section. The interest is deep and abiding, manifesting itself upon all occasions. They constantly visit us, treat teachers and students in the most considerate manner, speak encouraging words to us and of us. This good feeling is further seen in the fact that the Negroes of this section own thousands of acres of land—productive farms, beautiful, happy homes—the work of years of thrift and frugality on their part and encouragement from their white neighbors.



Ante-bellum Home, now President's Residence.

## COURSES OF STUDY

In the Literary Department of Normal there are six well organized schools or courses of study, to-wit:

1. NORMAL OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL with a course of three years.
2. NORMAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL, two years.
3. MODEL SCHOOL, four years.
4. BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL, two years.
5. SCHOOL OF MUSIC—Instrumental and Vocal.
6. BUSINESS COURSE, including Book-keeping, Short-hand, Typewriting, Telegraphy and Commercial Law

Normal has, also, a liberal Post-Graduate Course.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT has twenty schools or courses, from one to three years, in Cooking, Sewing, Sick Nursing, Laundering, Housekeeping, Network, Blacksmithing, House Carpentry, Wheelwright, Cabinet Making, Shoemaking, Painting, Printing, Broom Making, Mattress Making, Plumbing, Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy Farming, Stock Raising.

## EXPENSES.

The expenses at Normal are very light. This cheapness is largely due to the fact that the Institution is situated in one of the most fertile, productive and progressive sections of the entire South. The markets are abundantly supplied with the necessaries of life at very low prices. Board (excepting table napkins, towels, pillow-cases, sheets, bed covering, to be furnished by the student) per month, \$7.00. This includes tuition in all departments except Instrumental Music and the Commercial Course. Tuition in the Commercial Department is only \$2 per month, and Instrumental Music \$1.00 to \$2.00 per month, including instruments for practice. No better advantages can be had elsewhere at such low rates.

THE TRUSTEES.

The three Trustees or Commissioners representing the State of Alabama are all men of superior character, education and wealth. All of them were slave-holders and commissioned officers in the Confederate army

Hon. A. S. Fletcher has been Chairman of the Board for fifteen years. He is one of the best business men in Alabama, serving as Trustee of the Presbyterian Church,



Oak Lawn—Residence of Assistant Farm Manager

Director of the First National Bank of Huntsville, director in several other corporations, Alderman of the city of Huntsville and member of the Alabama Legislature. He is a lawyer.

Hon. S. J. Mayhew, the Executive Committee of the Board, is one of the most substantial men of Alabama, in every way. He is Superintendent of the schools of

Huntsville, Vice-President of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Trustee of the Presbyterian Church, director in several corporations, Alderman of Huntsville, and started life as architect and teacher

Hon. Daniel Coleman, Secretary of the Board, is a lawyer, prominent member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Director of the First National Bank of Huntsville. He has held many political positions among which are District Attorney, Consul to St. Etienne, France, etc. The following gentlemen have served on the Board: Mr. J. M. Crowder, Rev. Stephen Johnson, and Capt. John D. Brandon, the last named, deceased.

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#### PRESIDENTS OF THE SCHOOL.

The school has had only three Presidents, to-wit:

PROF. W. H. COUNCILL, 1875-6.

MR. J. M. ROBINSON, 1876-7

PROF. W. H. COUNCILL, 1877-1887

PROF. PETER H. CLARK, 1887-8.

PROF. W. H. COUNCILL, 1888—.

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#### AN OBJECTION ANSWERED.

It has been said that the graduates from our Industrial Schools do not follow the trades. This criticism is not correct, at least so far as Normal is concerned. While large numbers seek the professions, still it is gratifying to note a yearly increase in the number who follow trades taught in the institution. It may be stated also that graduates, like all other people, follow those occupations which offer the greatest inducements either in a pecuniary or charitable way. But in general our graduates follow those occupations for which they prepared while in school and many of them to-day are doing well in the industrial and business walks of life.

WATER SUPPLY

Normal is fortunate in her water supply. There are three bored wells from one hundred to one hundred and seventy feet deep, and two excellent springs. But to provide an abundance of water for machinery and for agricultural and horticultural purposes the school has recently, at great cost, put in four miles of pipe connecting with the famous Huntsville Spring. This gives an additional supply of fifty to one hundred gallons per minute of water which can not be excelled in purity.



Pasture, Looking toward Seay Hall.

DISCIPLINE.

Owing to the wise methods adopted, the discipline of the Institution is very near perfect. We have the respect and support of all classes of people who come in contact with our polite, manly and industrious students. The methods of discipline appeal to the nobler qualities and develop an exalted manhood.

## THE LABORATORY

Considerable philosophical and chemical apparatus has been added recently to the Laboratory. It is sufficient for ordinary work, and is being increased as the interests of the institution demand and its financial ability will allow

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## LIBRARY AND READING-ROOMS.

The School has a very good library of choice books, and the best magazines and journals of the country are found in the reading-rooms, which are open to students. The different industrial departments are supplied with ample and suitable reference and text-books. The literary and scientific departments are well provided with cyclopedias and other reference books, to all of which the students have free access.

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## SOCIETIES AND RELIGIOUS INFLUENCES.

The Institution is strictly undenominational, as all religious faiths are represented in the Faculty and among the students. But the Christian influence and sentiment are fixed, and form the basis of our excellent discipline. The Christian Endeavor, Social Purity, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Haygood Temperance, Peabody Literary, Debating Club, Juvenile Literary, and class organizations constitute the societies and organizations in the Institution. Preaching in the chapel every Sunday morning, and Sunday-school in the evening and Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting are the main features of worship.

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## METHODS.

“It is cruel as well as stupid to attempt to scold a child into learning a lesson. It weakens all the forces that need to be strong. Put the mind in its best, and

not its worst mood, when you want anything from it." Instruction is thorough in all the departments of the School. Only experienced teachers, whose hearts are in the great work, are employed.

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### HOME INFLUENCES.

People can not rise above their homes. That the homes of our people need elevation is clear to all. Therefore this Institution throws around its students such influences as will contribute to this great need. This is an indispensable part of their education.



Barn Yard.

### OUR BUILDINGS.

There are twenty buildings of various sizes and uses upon the grounds, including Palmer Hall, the Main School Building, three stories, first story, library and recitation-rooms; second story, chapel, and third, dor-



mitory for girls; Turner Hall (named in honor of Bishop Henry M. Turner), three story dormitory for girls; Langston Hall (named in honor of Hon. John Mercer Langston), three stories: first story, kitchen and store-room; second story, dining-room, and third, dormitory for girls; Seay Hall, three-story dormitory for young men; Teachers' Home, two stories, teachers and students; New Mechanic Arts Building—shoe shop, carpenter shop, printing office, and mechanical drawing; Old Mechanic Arts Building—blacksmith and wheelwright departments, broom and mattress factory, and painting; Laundry, Dairy, Barn, and several cottages. The dormitories for girls are fitted up with bath-rooms and sewer connections. In addition to these there are two large two-story buildings recently erected for hospitals—one for girls, the other for boys.

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#### OUR POST-OFFICE.

A post-office has been established on the Elora branch of the N. C. & St. L. R. R., right at the school, and the station has been named *NORMAL, ALABAMA*, in honor of the school. A nice waiting-room and a first-class store have been erected, and Normal will soon become a village of people who wish the advantages of education.

Neighboring lands may be purchased at prices ranging from \$20 to \$100 per acre.

Fearns is the name of the station on the M. & C. R. R., situated also on the school grounds.

Normal does registry and money-order business.

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#### ADMISSION

To be admitted into the Normal Department, pupils must present satisfactory evidence of good moral character, and be not less than fifteen years of age. Younger

persons are received into the Normal Preparatory. The Model School admits a very limited number of children of any age. Experience shows that the Model School is not only beneficial as a means for normal students to gain practical knowledge of the profession, but it is a nursery bringing into the Normal Preparatory better trained pupils than are often found in that department, except through such influences. All normal students are required to sign an obligation to teach two years in the State schools as soon as they become qualified to do so, *provided* they receive pay for their services. This obligation is restricted to those students who pursue only the regular professional course, according to the public school laws of Alabama.

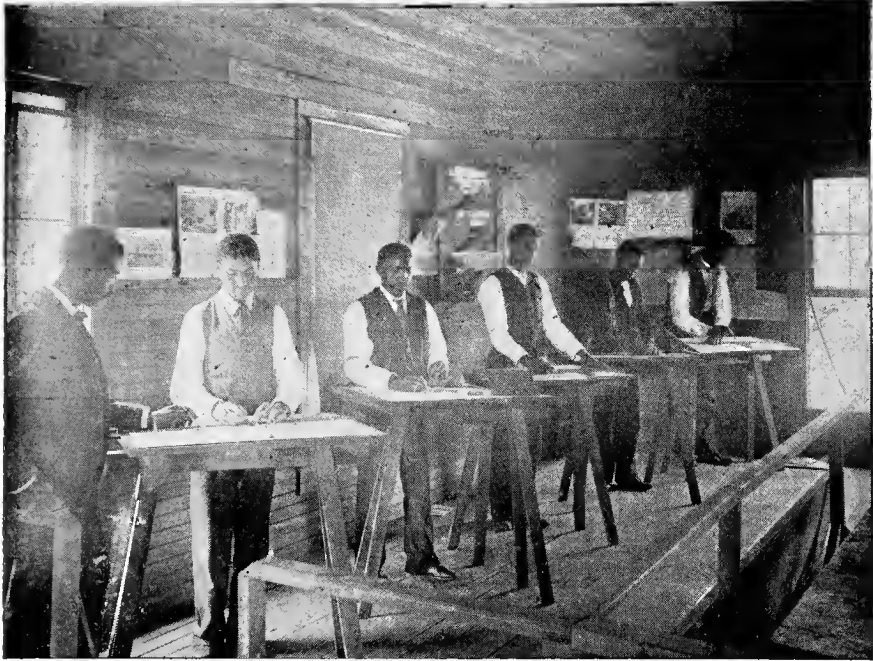


Normal Swine

### STUDENT LABOR.

All work, including building, repairing, blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, painting, broom-making, printing, shoe-making, mattress-making, farming, cooking, dining-room and general house-work, is performed by the students. From four to fifteen cents per hour is allowed,

according to the skill and faithfulness of the student. It can be easily seen that great advantages are offered by this institution to young men and women seeking an industrial and literary education.



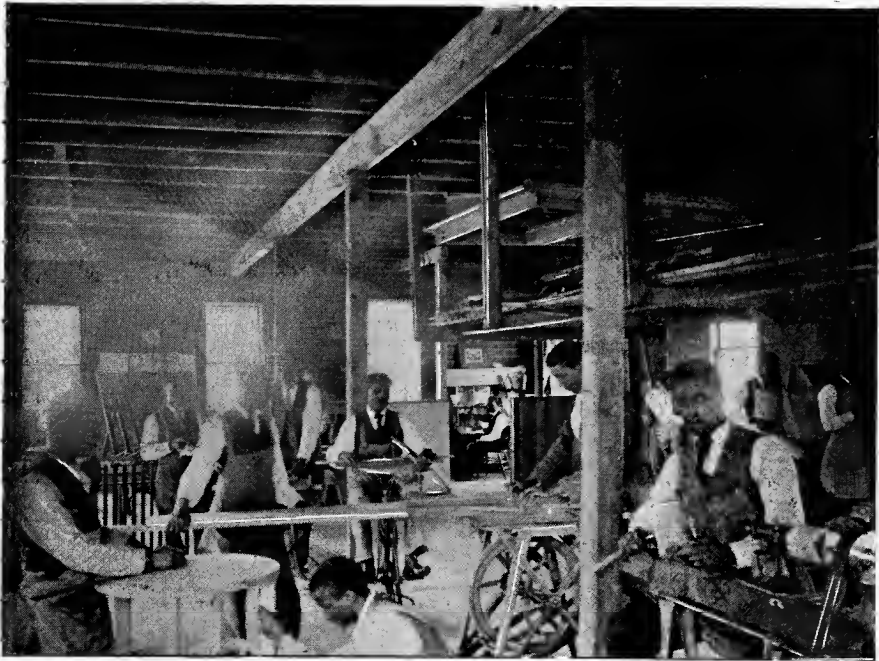
Class in Mechanical Drawing.

### THE AIM OF NORMAL.

The aim of the Institution is to give both practical and theoretical "instruction in Agriculture, the Mechanic Arts, the English Language and the various branches of Mathematical, Physical, Natural and Economic Science, with special reference to their application in the industries of life"—thus giving to the State an intelligent, industrious citizen, with proper ideas of life and the relations of education and labor. The object is to have the student begin practical life right in the school-room, receiving here some useful trade or profession, or laying the foundation for the same. The results of the efforts

of this Institution in this direction, in past years, plainly indicate the correctness of these methods. The head, the heart and the hand are harmoniously and conjointly developed and trained.

Further, the aim is to turn all labor, and all articles produced by labor, to advantage and utility. Therefore all of these industrial departments contribute in some way to the equipment of the Institution, and are, in most cases, a source of income to the student as well as a means of instruction.



Wood-working Department—Superintendent's Office in rear.

The shops are well supplied with ordinary machinery and tools. The manufactures include furniture of all kinds, tools and implements, shoes, brooms, wagons, buggies, hammocks, clothing, all kinds of fancy needle-work, etc., etc.

## THE FARM.

The farm comprises about two hundred acres of land, on which are cultivated for general and experimental purposes many varieties of cotton, grain, and all kinds of vegetables. The farm is well stocked with mules, horses, Devon, Holstein and Jersey cows, best breeds of hogs and poultry; vehicles and implements of every kind.

The various fruits of this section are found in the orchards of the farm.

The Institution does its own butchering

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 SCHEDULE.

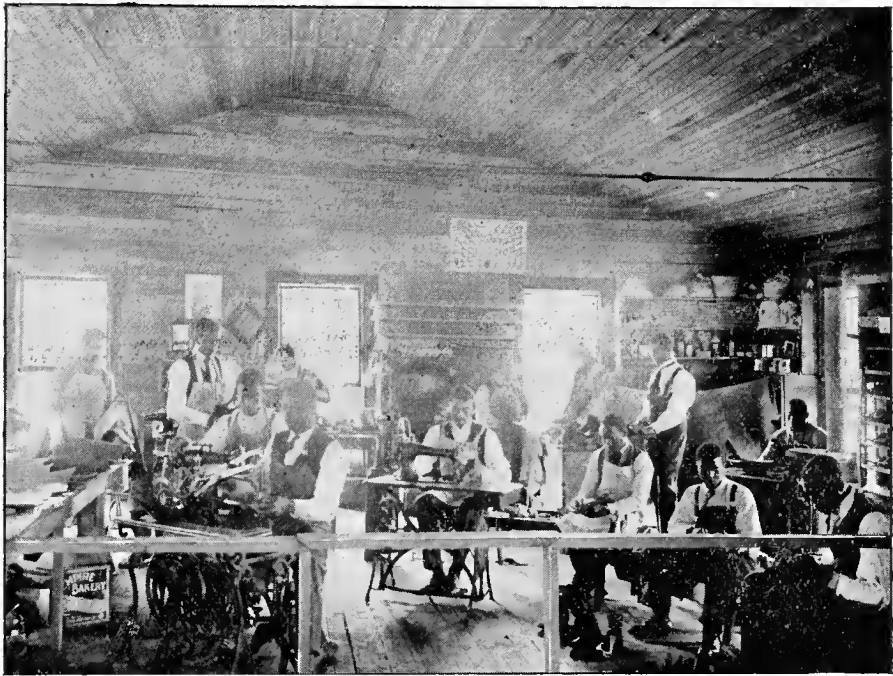
Rising Taps.	5.00 A.M.
Dressing and arranging rooms	5 to 5.40 A.M.
Study Hour	5.40 to 6.40 A.M.
Devotions	6.40 to 6.50 A.M.
Breakfast.	6.50 to 7.50 A.M.
School	7.50 A.M. to 1.20 P.M.
Dinner.	1.30 to 2.30 P.M.
General Work	2.30 to 4.30 P.M.
Recreation	4.30 to 6.00 P.M.
Tea	6.00 to 7.00 P.M.
Devotions	7.00 to 7.15 P.M.
Study	7.15 to 9.00 P.M.
Retiring Taps	9.00 P.M.
Preaching (Sundays)	10.30 to 11.30 A.M.
Sunday-school	3.30 to 4.30 P.M.

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 STUDENT AID.

While students are willing to work, still the applications for permission to do so far exceed the ability of the Institution. Work can not be given to all. Meritorious young people who would willingly exchange their labor for their board are turned away daily. Wages are small,

and their parents cannot support them in school. This is a serious matter for the consideration of the friends of this struggling people. The educational work among the Negroes is peculiar, and must be carried on by peculiar methods. A cotton factory or some other industry established near institutions of this kind could utilize every extra hour of students, and by some humane



Scene in Shoe Factory.

arrangement keep running every hour in the day, a source of income to the projectors and aid to poor students. Here is a thought worthy of the consideration of philanthropists.

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### HEALTH.

The healthfulness of this entire section is generally known. But this school is particularly favored in this

regard on account of its excellent location and surroundings. Normal is twelve hundred feet above sea level, with a natural drainage unsurpassed in the United States. The atmosphere is pure and bracing at all times.



A Class in Cooking.

### HELPING OURSELVES.

Very few of the students of Normal receive other help than a chance to work out their destinies. There is a "Student Aid Fund," but it is quite small. "A Chance to Work"—"Work is the Measure of Worth," are mottoes written in the heart of every Normal student.

The teachers contribute a portion of their salaries to our "Student Aid Fund" and other causes for the promotion of the work.

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### PLANTATION WORK.

The work of elevating the plantation life of the Negro is one of the most important connected with the work of education in the South. It is hard for the schools

to reach these people. Hence the importance of special effort in this direction. Normal has organized to meet the demand. Young women are trained especially for this work. Those who will dedicate their lives to this work on the plantation, to work regardless of pay, have all of their expenses paid in school while they are in preparation. Normal hopes to do much in this line.

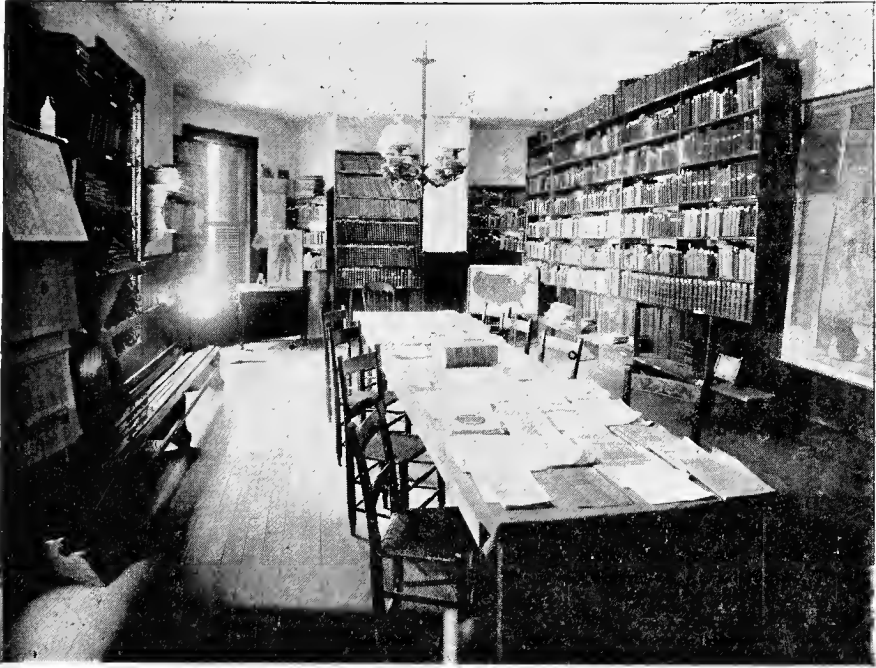


Section of Dining Room.

The young men are also organized for Sunday-school Mission Work. Many of them walk five to ten miles every Sabbath to organize and conduct Sunday-schools. Everywhere they go school-houses are built and repaired, homes are refined and general intelligence scattered among the people. The ingenuity displayed by these young men to overcome the poverty which confronts them in their work is quite remarkable. One of them bought Sunday-school literature and started a



library on a collection of one egg each Sunday from those who could afford such a contribution. The eggs were sold and the money used as needed in the work.



Library and Reading Room.

### OUR NEEDS.

Normal has many pressing needs, and the friends of education are invited to provide for them. Among the things needed are:—

- Money for the erection of a chapel.
- Money for the purchase of machinery
- Money for our "Student Aid Fund."
- Money for our Plantation Work.

Apparatus, tools, implements, etc., for all of our departments.

Books, pamphlets, newspapers, &c., for our Library and Reading Room.

Anything which will help us in this work will be most gratefully received.

Donations of land or any other kind of property in any part of the country would be of great help to Normal.



Reception Room in Palmer Hall.

# The Press on Normal.

[From *Birmingham Age-Herald.*]

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## EDUCATING THE NEGRO.

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### THE STATE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR COLORED STUDENTS.

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Progress and Advancement. Interesting Facts Con-  
nected With the Management of This  
Worthy Institution.

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*To the Age-Herald:*

All Alabamians are aware that there is near Huntsville a state normal and industrial school for colored students, but how few are aware of what it has accomplished, of the progress it has made and the advancement it is still making

It was inaugurated some years ago by William H. Council, a colored Alabamian of much culture, a man whose administrative abilities have been thoroughly tested, and whose conspicuous success in the management, enlargement and solidifying of this school is not only creditable to him, but it has added honor to his state. His work shows for itself and emphasizes his worth. Already the school is entitled to a place side by side with the great educational enterprises of the south.

At first the school was located in the city of Huntsville, but it took only a few years to demonstrate to the

president and his board of trustees that the school must have more elbow room if it was to do the work that seemed to open before it.

The school property in the city was sold and some two or three miles away 182 acres were purchased, and as soon as practicable the school removed thereto. The location seems to be all that could be desired, with the single exception of water supply, this being dependent for a portion of the year upon wells of considerable depth,



Laboratory.

but of excellent quality. The site of the school is among the foot-hills of the Cumberland mountains, 1200 feet above the sea level, and one of the loveliest of landscapes stretches out far and wide, pleasing and picturesque as a poet's dream.

The grounds are situated between two railroads, with a depot hard by on either side.

It was the pleasure of the writer recently to visit

this school. He was not simply surprised, he was pleased—pleased beyond description by what he witnessed within and without. Of the buildings there are several three-storied—two of which are handsome and even imposing in appearance. One thing is worthy of note just here: These two elegant structures were not only designed, but were built by those connected with the school, all the work having been done by the pupils themselves. But any one can see that the school is still at no little disadvantage for the lack of adequate accommodations and appliances. Quite a number of old buildings that were on the grounds when purchased are utilized for different schools in the industrial department. An old stable, for instance, strong and broad, has been cleaned and repaired for the school of blacksmithing. Fifty thousand dollars would not be too much to expend to make the industrial and literary departments what they should be. And some benevolent soul who has the money could hardly do a more blessed thing than to donate that amount, to be expended by President Council and his trustees. There is not a steam engine on the grounds and nearly all the work has to be done by hand.

In the industrial department are taught agriculture and what pertains thereto, the raising and treatment of live stock. The visitors were shown a drove of hogs belonging to the school, and finer swine are not to be seen anywhere. The cattle, too, are first-class. Besides agriculture there are schools of carpentry, printing, painting, blacksmithing, plumbing, shoemaking, mattress-making, cutting and sewing, laundering, etc. In the carpentry school we found the pupils engaged in making out bills of lumber. In the school of blacksmithing the old-time music of the ringing anvil and the flying sparks reminded the writer of the days long ago, when it was his delight to visit the village blacksmith. The shoemaking school seems to be one of President

Councill's pets, and he is looking forward to a day not distant when drummers will take the road for the sale of the "Normal shoe." Professor Lowrey, who is at the head of this school, showed by his brief lecture on the science of shoe-cutting and the structure of foot-gear, as well as the manipulation of some of his machines, that he is an expert and glories in his business.

One thing a visitor cannot fail to observe is the extreme neatness throughout all the buildings. This is especially observable in the sleeping apartments, in the cooking school, in the hospital—in fact, everywhere, you are pleased with the perfect cleanliness of the place. And so far as seen there was a marked absence of any slovenliness in the apparel of the pupils. The lunch prepared by pupils in the cooking school evoked hearty compliments from those who enjoyed the pleasant repast.

There is a religious influence exerted in the institution which cannot fail to have a hallowing effect on the pupils now and in after life. There is preaching by the chaplain at 11 o'clock every Sunday, and every pupil is required to attend. After this service comes the "hour of silence" which every pupil is urged to observe. The hour is spent in silent prayer and meditation, in reading the Bible and religious conversation. There are other religious services beside the Sunday preaching.

Music is by no means ignored. A brass band belongs to the institution, and the school of music is taught by competent teachers. Pupils and teachers know how to sing. The writer has rarely listened to so grand a concord of human voices. It was inspiring.

The literary and scientific departments are under the tuition of highly educated and experienced teachers, all of them having been graduated by first-class universities or colleges of the United States or Canada, one being a graduate of Hartford.

The wonder is that so much has already been done



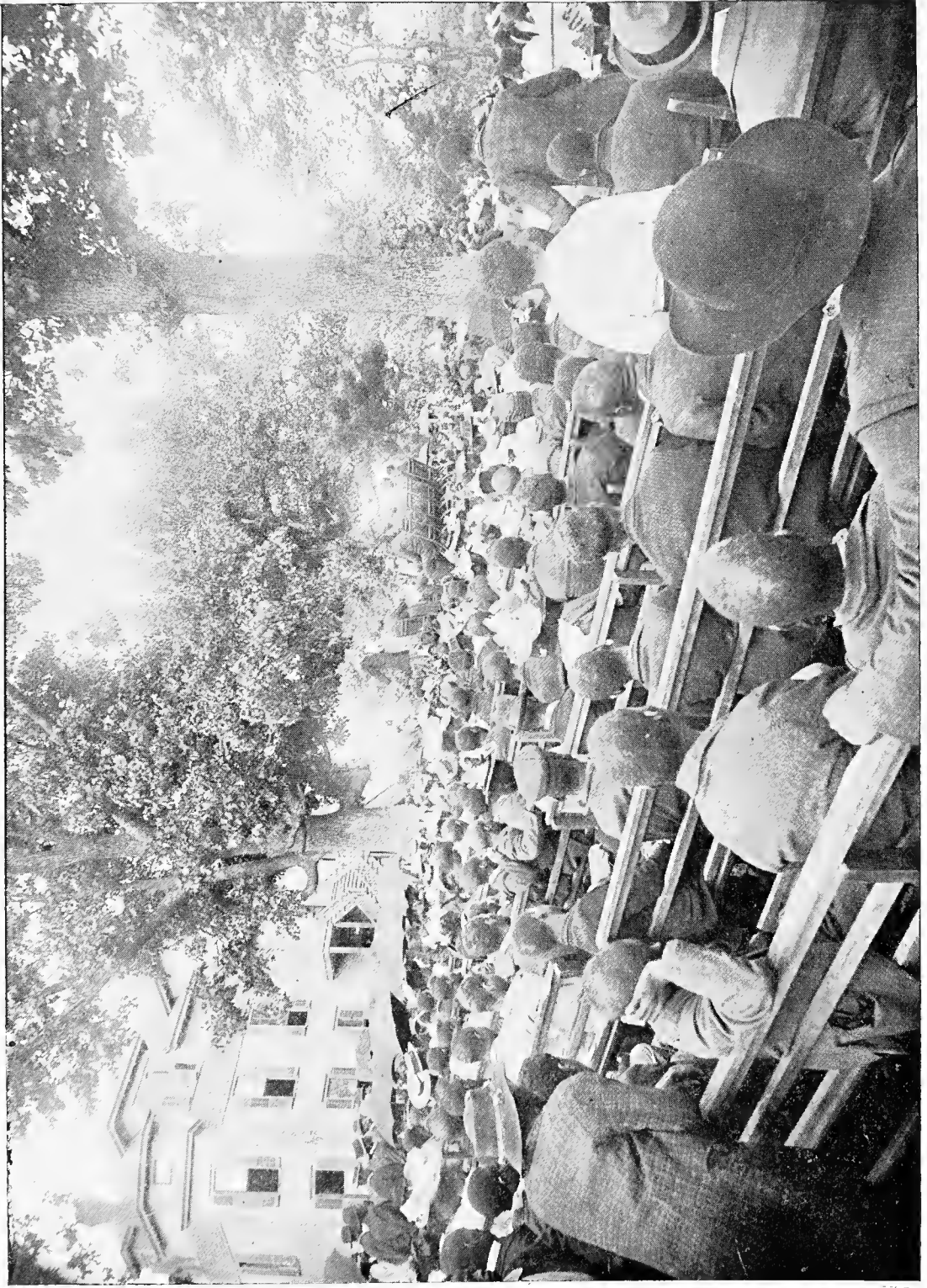
Section of Campus.

in building and enlarging this most deserving institution. That there has been much liberality and self-sacrifice for its benefit on the part of the president and his teachers the writer has from good authority. The institution is now full to overflowing; there are more than 400 pupils. More room is greatly needed. There are representatives from eighteen States and one from Africa.

“And how is it,” said the writer to President Council,” “that you have this little African?” (He is about 16 and small of stature.)

He was slow to say “But,” said he at length, “I will tell you just as the boy tells it; he says he belonged to the Golah tribe and lived nearly five hundred miles from the coast. He dreamed that if he would go to the coast he would meet a ‘big God man’—a man who would tell him of the ‘big God’—the God of all gods. He sat out and traveled 500 miles to reach the Liberian coast. It so happened that a White Missionary was there and he was directed to him, but his heart sank within him when he saw the man, for he was not the ‘big God man’ he had seen in his dream. Shortly thereafter Bishop Turner arrived and this little light-seeker was directed to him, and the moment his eyes fell on the bishop he recognized the ‘big God man’ he had seen in his dream, and he ran and fell at his feet for joy. The bishop left him in charge of the president of Liberia during his temporary absence, and it was during his absence that the president, finding a ship ready to sail for New York, put the boy aboard. The cargo consisted of monkeys, snakes and the like for a New York museum. When it had landed in New York a Times reporter having come aboard noticed the little truth-seeker and interviewed him. Next morning his story was in print. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal church investigated, took charge of him, provided for him and shipped him to me to be educated. That church is paying half of his expenses and Normal the other half.





Commencement 1894. Hon. John M. Langston, Delivering Annual Address.

“ This much,” added President Council, “ I have to say, whether that vision be true or false, I have never before known a boy to make such progress during the few weeks he has been here. It is wonderful, and his conduct has been most exemplary.”

“ Your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams.”

G. P. KEYES.

Col. Geo. P. Keyes is one of the most distinguished sons of Alabama.

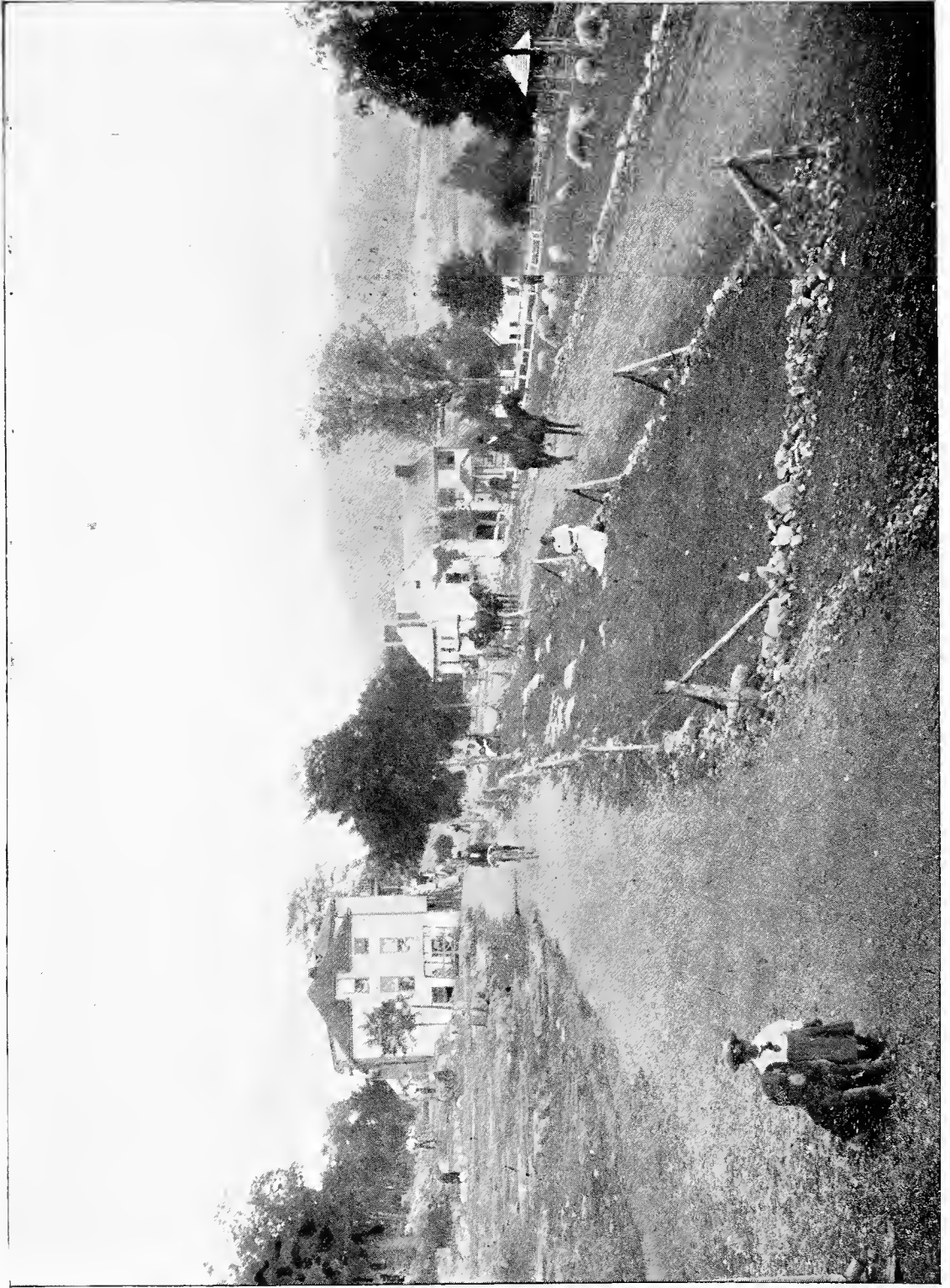
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### SABBATH AT NORMAL.

[*From Indianapolis Freeman.*]

Sunday at Normal, Ala., is one of the most enjoyable occasions of one's life. The school campus occupies the whole of a knoll twelve hundred feet above sea level, and four hundred feet above the beautiful city of Huntsville. It has a gradual slope toward the cardinal points of the compass. Sunrise and sunset at any time are beautiful, but on Sabbath mornings and evenings the scene seems to grow sublime beyond description. Only the pen of an angel could paint such a scene. Indeed, throughout the campus is one flood of golden sunshine, with now and then a cloud shadow to remind us of the imperfections of this transient life.

Within easy distance on our pastures graze in beautiful composure, horses, mules, cows of several breeds and a large flock of sheep. The squirrel within a hundred yards of the halls, chatters in glee, and mocking-birds from hundreds of trees, warble and sing undisturbed, for they are all safe at Normal. The beautiful, prosperous farms stretching far, far away, the mountains in the horizon kissing the blue skies that bow to the earth on this holy day, all make the scenes and harmonies of nature transporting. But the most glorious of all, the students and teachers themselves, happy, smiling, singing, read-



Evening Street Scene—Langston Hall and President's Residence in Distance.

ing, joy and gladness everywhere—in the great halls, in the library, on the white graveled walks, on the grassy lawns, under stately and majestic oaks, every wind loaded with the perfumed breath of spring. Sunday at Normal! Glorious day! Rising bell calls from slumber at 5 A. M. The Chapel bell calls to morning prayer at 6 A. M. ; breakfast at 7 o'clock. Y. M. C. A. at 8. Church at 10:30 ; a sermon by the chaplain—sweetest music ; 12 to 1 the old " silent hour." Dinner at 1:30, Sunday-school at 3, supper at 6. Devotions at 7 ; meeting of Christian Endeavor and other societies, or talks by the President, Prof. W. H. Councill or others. Retiring bell at 9 P. M. So ends a Sabbath at Normal, beautiful, healthful, musical, cultured Normal.

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THE closing exercises at the State Normal and Industrial School, for colored students, was the most important and interesting this year in its history, commencing last Sabbath and closing Thursday. The commencement sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Alexander Crummell, of Washington, D. C. The annual address on Tuesday afternoon was delivered by Governor Wm. C. Oates, of Alabama, who made an excellent talk, and was highly pleased at the remarkable progress this school is making under the very able, wise and successful management of its first president, Prof. Wm. H. Councill.—*Montgomery Daily Advertiser*, June 2, 1895

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Gov OATES has been up to the Colored Normal School at Normal. He was there by invitation, to speak to the school. We venture to say the Governor administered some very wholesome advice and uttered some very kindly and appropriate sentiments. No doubt, too, he was

impressed with the beneficent work President Council and his coadjutors have done and are doing for the colored youth intrusted to their training. There is no similar institution anywhere more deserving of encouragement from white people, South or North. It is an honor to Alabama. —*Sheffield Times*.

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Similar mention was made in the leading journals, such as *Atlanta Constitution*, *Birmingham States*, *Birmingham Age-Herald*, *Mobile Register*, *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, *Nashville American*, *Nashville Banner*, *Huntsville Argus*, and *Daily Mercury*, *Evening Tribune* and *Huntsville Democrat* and other leading journals.

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#### NORMAL ENDORSED.

*Hon. Frederick Douglass:* I take pleasure in commending Mr. W. H. Council, and his work, to the good will and support of all. I have the fullest confidence in him.

*Bishop D. A. Payne:* Prof. Council is doing a noble work for the race in the South.

*Bishop Henry M. Turner:* I commend Normal to the generosity of all lovers of Education and friends of an oppressed race. It is the grandest work in the South.

*Mr. William Still:* The Educational work among the Freedmen in which Prof. Council is engaged, deserves great credit and encouragement.

*Hon. John M. Langston:* The School is worthy of every contribution which can be made to it. It deserves the support of every friend of the Negro.



Palmer Hall—Students Assembling for Morning Devotions.

*Hon. W T Harris, U S. Commissioner of Education:* It gives me pleasure to say, that I consider this a most worthy object, and one of the best and most satisfactory ways of giving efficient aid to the advancement of the colored race.

*Dr Alexander Crummell* You have gone on for years so quietly, neither sending up sky-rockets nor firing off cannons. And thus your work burst upon me with the force of both beauty and power; for I had no idea of so much maturity, strength and excellence as I saw there.

*Governor W C. Oates, of Alabama:* No man, white or black, could have done more at Normal with the same amount of money than Prof. Council has done. There are few men of his race like him.

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#### WEATHER SERVICE.

The U S. Government has made Normal a Signal Station, and the signals more than five hundred feet above Huntsville are read by the farmers in the prosperous valleys below for miles and miles away

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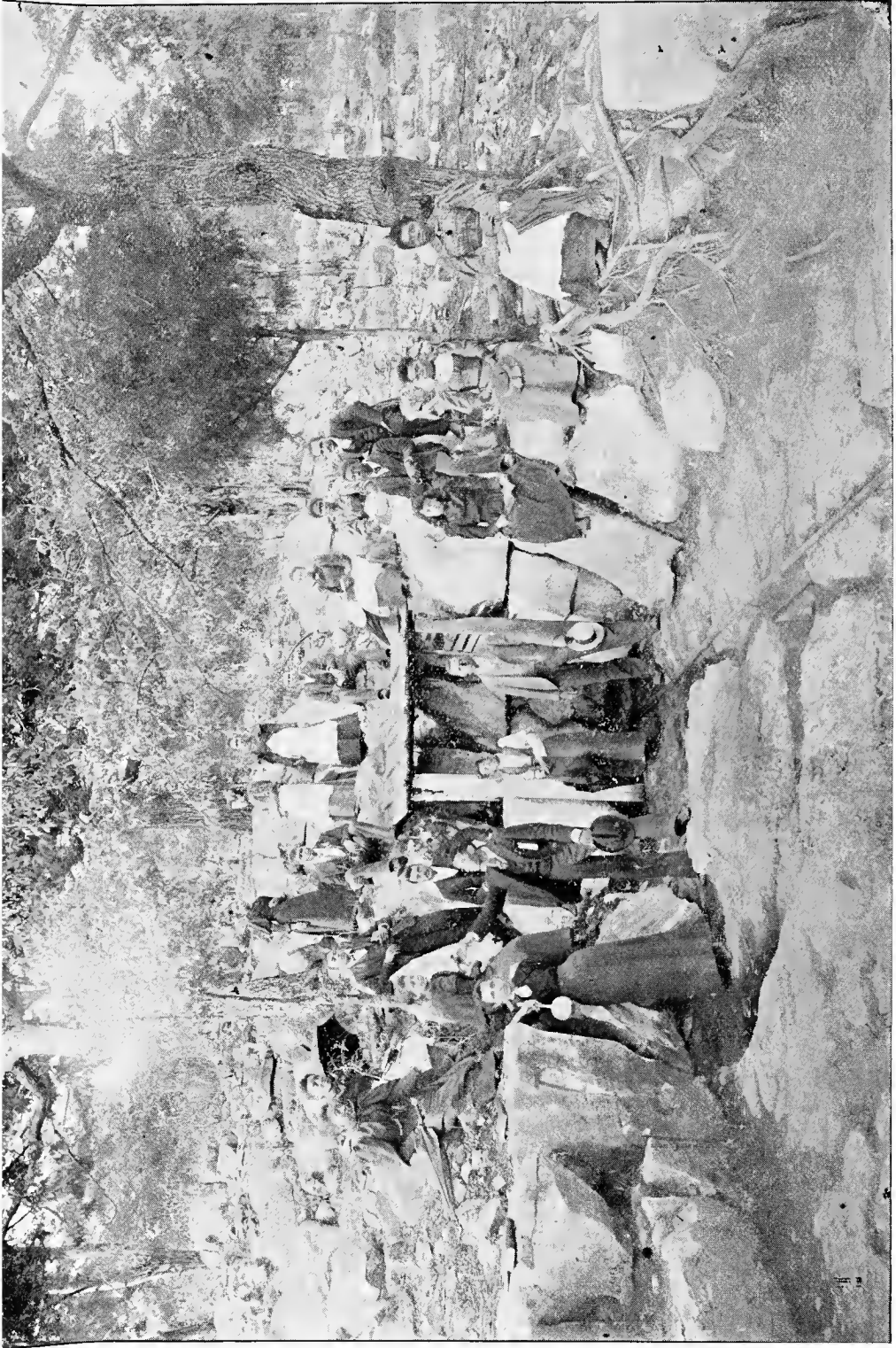
#### THE FIRST DRUMMER.

Normal is the first institution to send out a drummer. A competent young man has been engaged, and will soon be put on the road to place Normal shoes, brooms, plows, etc., in the market.

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#### BRASS AND STRING MUSIC.

Normal has a first-class Brass Band and an excellent String Band. The Orchestra is quite an important aid at service.



At the Spring—Class 1895



A successful effort has been made at music composition. Songs have been written and set to music, and brass band, piano, and organ music composed and published by Normal's teachers and students.

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### A NEGRO TOWN.

PROF W H. COUNCILL owns a farm adjoining Normal, and occupying a portion of the triangle between the two great railroad lines approaching each other after passing on either side of Normal. He has laid a portion of this land off in lots, streets, avenues, alleys, and gives the odd numbers to *bona fide* settlers, who will build a specified house, and subscribe to certain other conditions, such as keeping up fences, streets, sidewalks, etc. Men who can turn their brains and muscles into things of use are encouraged to settle here. Also efforts are being made to induce rich philanthropists to locate a cotton factory and other enterprises on this land. The land and water power will be given for this purpose.







